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Viewing cable 05NEWDELHI5216, BJP MISCALCULATES AGAIN: EFFORTS TO CAPITALIZE ON

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- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with a cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
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Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05NEWDELHI5216	2005-07-07 11:16	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy New Delhi

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1585609.ece>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 NEW DELHI 005216

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/07/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [KISL](#) [IN](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: BJP MISCALCULATES AGAIN: EFFORTS TO CAPITALIZE ON
AYODHYA FIZZLE

REF: NEW DELHI 5165

Classified By: PolCouns Geoffrey Pyatt, for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#). (C) Summary: BJP attempts to capitalize on the July 5 Ayodhya terrorist attack have largely fallen flat, and opposition calls for the resignations of the BJP's top leaders.
The BJP Acts Fast

[12](#). (C) Following an early morning terror strike on the Ayodhya site, the BJP leadership emerged from its July 5 New Delhi meeting energized and determined to end the ongoing conflict between Party President LK Advani and the RSS (over the latter's remarks about Mohammed Ali Jinnah), revive the sagging morale of the party cadre, and turn around the party's flagging electoral fortunes, especially in the Hindi belt and Uttar Pradesh (UP).

[13](#). (U) Opposition leaders pointed out that for the first time in months the Sangh Parivar (family of Hindu organizations) had buried its differences.
The BJP Action Plan

[14](#). (U) While the Prime Minister was urging the nation to remain calm and await the results of the ongoing investigation into the attack before

[15](#). (U) To protest the attack the BJP:
--demanded the resignation of Home Minister Shivraj Patil and UP Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav,
--scheduled nationwide protest marches in major Indian cities,
--called a general strike (bandh) in UP, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Orissa,
--announced that former Chief Ministers Rajnath Singh and Kalyan Singh and BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi would go to Ayodhya.
Press reports also indicate that in Jharkhand and UP BJP demonstrators publicly blamed Pakistan for the attack and burned the Pakistani flag.

The RSS Claims Vindication

[16](#). (U) The RSS leadership coincidentally was meeting in Surat on July 5. The RSS leaders claimed that the Ayodhya attack would unify the BJP and the RSS.
Tear Gas in New Delhi

[17](#). (U) The BJP's July 6 rally in New Delhi turned violent, as demonstrators "'courting arrest'" clashed with police, leading authorities to use tear gas.
The Agitation Flops

[18](#). (U) The BJP call for nationwide protests on July 6 was largely unobserved outside of BJP controlled states. Although VHP and RSS cadre attended, the protests were largely unobserved.
The NDA Opts Out

[19](#). (U) The BJP's allies in the NDA distanced themselves from the agitation, with Janata Dal(UP) leader George Fernandes praising the security forces and Advani's Troubles Mount

[110](#). (U) Just as Advani was attempting to recast himself as the leader of a renewed Ram temple agitation, his previous actions came back to haunt him.
Reactions from UP

[111](#). (C) Embassy interlocutors in UP generally dismissed the BJP's strike call, agreeing that the attack would not revive the party's flagging

[112](#). (C) The "'Asian Age'" Bureau Chief dismissed the strike call, saying "'the Hindutva plank has lost all relevance.'" He predicted that attacks on the BJP would continue.
Reactions in Delhi

[113](#). (C) SP MP Shahid Siddiqui was quick to take credit for preventing the attack, saying "'my party's government in UP deserves full marks for

[114](#). (C) Congress MP Rashid Alvi praised Pakistan for its quick condemnation of the attack, and predicted that the BJP agitation would fail even if it

[115](#). (C) "'Hard News'" Editor Sanjay Kapoor predicted that the UPA would emerge stronger after the Ayodhya attack, as it would bring the Left to power.
BJP Decline to Continue

[116](#). (C) "'Hindustan Times'" columnist and political insider Pankaj Vohra told Poloff on July 6 that the BJP is in serious trouble and predicts

¶17. (C) Vohra believes that the BJP has no option but to return to Hindutva and face the electoral consequences. The RSS is telling the party
Comment

¶18. (C) The BJP is increasingly desperate as it enters a period of protracted decline. Seeing the Ayodhya attack as an opportunity, it moved c

¶19. (C) In domestic terms, Congress could be a big winner from the Ayodhya attack. The Prime Minister was quick to reassure the nation, the p
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